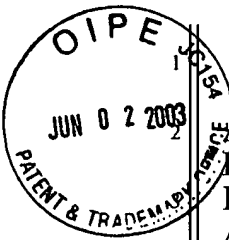


## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Application Serial No. ....09/361,782  
 Filing Date .....7/26/1999  
 Inventorship .....Deen et al.  
 Applicant ..... Microsoft Corporation  
 Group Art Unit .....2176  
 Examiner ..... Queler  
 Attorney's Docket No. ....ms1-390us  
 Title: "Methods and Systems for Preparing Extensible Markup Language (XML)  
 Documents and for Responding to XML Requests"

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 6, 2003**

To: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
 P.O. Box 1450  
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From: Lance Sadler (Tel. 509-324-9256, ext 226; Fax 509-323-8979)  
 Customer No. 22801

Technology Center 2100



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**In the Specification**

Please replace the text in the specification starting on page 2, line 12  
 through page 3, line 12 with the following:

--Typically, XML documents are exchanged between different entities,  
 such as client and server computers, in the form of requests and responses. A  
 client might generate a request for information or a request for a certain server  
 action, and a server might generate a response to the client that contains the  
 information or confirms whether the certain action has been performed. In many  
 cases, it is convenient to represent these XML documents in memory as a  
 hierarchical tree structure. Once the hierarchical tree structure is built, the actual  
 XML document in proper syntactic form can then be assembled. Consider the